Coordination with Other Agencies
Water Quality and Composting Facilities

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Objectives: Waste Diversion

- Reduce organics disposal 50% by 2020
- Need more capacity - 15 million tons/year
- Additional compost facilities
Objectives: Water Quality

- Ensure there is no discharge to surface water bodies – or a federal permit is required

- Impacts to groundwater shall not exceed the water quality objectives established in the Regional Water Quality Control Boards’ Basin Plans
Sample Constituents of Concern in Leachate and Runoff at Composting Facilities

- Salts (TDS, EC)
- Nutrients (Nitrates)
- Pathogens (E. coli)
- Metals (Fe, Cu, Mn, Ni, Zn, Al, As)
Legal Requirements

- Dischargers of waste that could pose a threat to water quality must submit a report of waste discharge to Regional Water Board

- In response, Regional Water Board may issue WDRs or waive WDRs
Regulatory Considerations

• Feedstocks, additives, amendments, and unfinished compost are considered “waste discharge to land”

• Leachate and runoff data show the discharge may be a “designated waste” such that Title 27 requirements would apply
Regulatory Considerations

- Larger composting facilities currently have WDRs
- Green waste composting conditional waiver of WDRs in effect 1994 to 2003
- SB 390 (WC Section 13269) requires new waivers of WDRs to have:
  - Conditions
  - Monitoring of conditions
  - 5-year review
Water Board Statewide Waiver Concept

- Composting facilities comply with law by submitting a report of waste discharge

- Applicable to variety of composting facilities. Not for composting facilities requiring individual WDRs

- Not a waiver from standards or meeting Basin Plan water quality objectives
Water Board Statewide Waiver Concept

- Flexible framework with tiered water quality protection measures - based on composting materials and site conditions (rainfall, depth to water...)

- Streamlined issuance if facility meets prescriptive requirements. Potentially slower process for Regional Water Board review of alternatives
Statewide Waiver Development and Interagency Coordination

- Joint public workshop August 2009 to discuss concept of Statewide Conditional Waiver of Title 27 WDRs
- Water Boards/CIWMB interagency meetings
- Water Boards workgroup
- Stakeholder input
- Regulatory workshops
- State Water Board consideration of Draft Statewide Waiver and Final CEQA Document
Thank You!